1 And finally, I just encourage you to use 2 caution with any change, as somebody who is not 3 particularly crazy about government agencies all the 4 time, nothing personal, I would encourage you to 5 give credit to the private sector, give credit to 6 competition, and like here in our market, let's do 7 more with the private sector and less with the 8 government regulation. 9 Thank you for being here today in 10 Harrisburg. 11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. 12 Elizabeth Hainstock. 13 MS. HAINSTOCK: Thank you also for being 14 here today. 15 Apparently, I came to the wrong meeting. 16 I was expecting to be at a conference or a forum 17 that was about media ownership and about the fact that we, the people, own the licenses. Instead, I 18 19 seem to be at a forum that is self-serving, 20 embarrassing, humiliating, about the television 21 stations in this area coming here and stacking the 22 deck and speaking before all of us had a chance 23 about how wonderful they are in this area, when 24 they're only doing their job.

I also want to say, on the other side,

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particularly to you, the Chairman of this

Commission, I receive a lot of mail. I am a former broadcaster. I was in broadcasting for 15 years.

I've been a publisher. I'm a screenwriter. I've been on that side. I know how to do the numbers.

When someone tells you that they give you 30,000 minutes of public service announcements, please add up how many total minutes there are of commercial and what the revenue is.

The gentlemen here has been receiving from one organization and I am totally in favor of media groups that are in favor of informing this country and our people that we own the licenses.

Unfortunately, sometimes the tactics are rather unpleasant. And I received something recently that was a comedy, a little cartoon, that was meant to go to one commissioner. And I'm not in favor of that kind of format. That's not funny and it's rancorous and it doesn't get the point out.

The point is, we own the licenses. I have made a commitment in the last couple of days and especially after listening to all of these stations. I have no problem. John Ranckle is a fine man in New York, but he's doing the job he's supposed to do. He's supposed to allow access to

1	these organizations to give them the opportunity to
2	get their message out there. I have made a
3	commitment that the next President, presidential
4	candidate that I vote for, I will only do so if they
5	come down on the side of
6	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
7	MS. HAINSTOCK: not only stopping the
8	increase of ownership for large corporations, but in
9	fact, lower the number of stations
10	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.
11	MS. HAINSTOCK: they're allowed. I'm
12	sorry, but I want to
13	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.
14	MS. HAINSTOCK: say one more thing.
15	There's an extraordinary woman here today who got up
16	and spoke. Her father helped create the Federal
17	Communications Commission. He wrote the language
18	and served on the Commission. And not one, not one
19	broadcaster here went up to speak to her and talk
20	about her history and about what this is all about.
21	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
22	MS. HAINSTOCK: Please inform your
23	friends that you own the license.
24	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.
25	MS. HAINSTOCK: Thank you.
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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: If we could have 2 come to this mic, Steve Bozzone, Gary Bootay, Al 3 Price, Emily Geddes, and Anthony Mazza. 4 Brian Johnson. 5 MR. JOHNSON: Hello. My name is Brian. 6 I'm a media activist currently living in 7 Philadelphia. For the past several years, I've working at genuine community radio and looking to 8 9 expand LPFM. 10 I come from Spokane, Washington, where a 11 single family, the Cowles Family, own the only local 12 daily newspaper and two of the television news 13 When the insisted on building an unwanted outlets. parking garage right in the middle of downtown, they 14 15 took advantage of their media holdings to stifle the 16 debate, debate that was necessary for the citizens 17 to make an informed decision. The Cowles built their parking garage 18 and asked for the contract with the city that 19 20 ensures they make enough money by any means 21 necessary, the Cowles have using it to funnel money from the city into their own pockets. This directly 22 affected me, my family, and my fellow citizens. 23 24 Taxes that we paid to fix our streets and improve

our schools were lost to the Cowles. They used

1 their media monopoly to keep the citizens 2 uninformed, all for the sake of a greasy buck. 3 On the bright side, Spokane now has its 4 very own lower power radio station, KYRSLP. KYRS is 5 broadcasting local news and independent music to a 6 population of over 200,000, including large local 7 immigrant communities. Entire populations that 8 don't even show up on the corporate media's radar 9 are now being served and serving themselves in their native languages, all because the FCC made LPFM 10 11 available. 12 I urge you to maintain the cross-13 ownership ban to stop further consolidation of our media, to expand LPFM opportunities, to abolish 14 15 third adjacency rules. I want to see other cities 16 with their own KYRS, but not with their own Cowles 17 family. 18 Thank you. 19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. 20 Oposov. 21 MR. OPOSOV: Good afternoon, 22 Commissioners, Chairman Martin. My name is Danila 23 Oposov and I would like to ask you to stop media 24 consolidation. 25 I was born in Russia and I moved to the

United States when I was six years old. I have grown up American, but have kept up with my culture and have stayed involved in the Russian speaking community, which numbers more than 50,000 in Philadelphia. That's bigger than Harrisburg.

Today, only one radio station provides any outlet for Russian speakers. For just four hours a day, WNWR broadcasts Russian music, news and events. Russian speakers from all walks of life relish the time to hear programming that isn't available anywhere else. Yet the service and listenership of this station doesn't register by the standard means of measurement used by the largest radio companies. The Arbitron rating system, the most widely used and respected measure of market share, uses questionnaires available exclusively in English. According to them, the station hardly has any listeners at all.

An even more consolidated media

landscape would ignore the relatively tiny, non
English and immigrant markets. Media deregulation

of the past has shown that low income, immigrant

media is one of the first to disappear and be

flipped to some other commercial format. Small and

fringe markets are simply rolled over when it

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1 becomes too expensive to produce local news and 2 content in the indigenous language. 3 Please, think of the often voiceless 4 immigrant communities and those excluded by 5 mainstream media, when you vote to stop media 6 consolidation and expand low power FM. 7 Thank you. 8 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. 9 Brook. 10 MR. BROOK: I would remind you that the 11 journalist on the panel, when she spoke, mentioned 12 the troubling rise of He Said, She Said coverage of 13 issues on which there is actually little debate 14 among informed sources. I would submit that the hearing we're having now is just one such issue. 15 16 True, we've heard many people on the pro 17 side and the con side of greater media 18 consolidation, but nearly everyone speaking against 19 the consolidation was speaking for themselves. 20 Personally, I'm self-employed. I got up at 5:00 21 a.m. this morning to get a bus from Philadelphia to 22 come to this hearing. It's a day I'm giving up of 23 work that I could be putting in work on outstanding 24 contracts, but I think it's important to be here.

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Meanwhile, speaker after speaker in

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favor of greater media consolidation was on the payroll of the media conglomerates. They came in two forms. One, people directly on the payroll, their employees, and second, people who were indirectly the beneficiaries of the corporate media conglomerate largess, through donations to their nonprofit of business association.

There were speakers speaking in favor of all of the wonderful things that the media conglomerates have done for the local community, but none of them listed any reasons why greater media consolidation would boost that activity. I would submit it's because there are no reasons. The jury is not out. There's a book, Fighting for Air by an independent scholar at New York University, not on the payroll of anyone and you can read page after page of why media consolidation does not -- stifles local voices. There's the FCC's own report on radio consolidation which showed it limited the amount of local news, a report that was, according to Senator Barbara Boxer of California and a number of media watchdogs, suppressed by the FCC itself.

Now, I only have two minutes and I'm out of time. I can't make the entire case but the book is right here. You can get it any library. And

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1	Chairman Martin, I am willing to donate my copy,
2	which I have read,
3	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.
4	MR. BROOK: to you.
5	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Frank Gordon.
6	MR. GORDON: Good afternoon,
7	Commissioners, fellow citizens. What we need is
8	clean air, free enterprise, free voices of the
9	people, in that form, without the control of
10	corporate conglomerate profits. How else would know
11	when TXLI, Texas Utility, proposes to do us the
12	favor of building five new coal-fired plants in
13	Pennsylvania, without independent stations like WURD
14	900 AM, organizations like Prometheus and Media
15	Tank, to voice the other side of the story, that
16	these coal-fired plants would produce seven million
17	tons of new global warming pollution annually into
18	our clean air? No pun intended.
19	How would we hear the alternative energy
20	sources, wind, solar powered, diesel plants for
21	clean jobs, for clean air, a clean generation of
22	electricity for radio stations, an alternative and a
23	viable alternative?
24	How would we know that Montford Point
25	Marine died at 91 years of age this month in

1	Philadelphia, one of the force of black marines that
2	landed in Iwo Jima? One of whom provided a piece
3	pipe for the staff of the flag that was raised in
4	victory.
5	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
6	MR. GORDON: Well, there are two other
7	sentences. Where would we hear commentary for the
8	file of the
9	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Mr. Gordon, thank
10	you very much.
11	MR. GORDON: prisons here in
12	Pennsylvania of Mumia Abu-Jamal, whose language is
13	in the federal prisons, where would we hear reports
14	from him? How would know that there is clean and
15	beautiful rap music?
16	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr.
17	Gordon. We have to move on.
18	MR. GORDON: The struggle continues
19	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.
20	MR. GORDON: for clean air.
21	MS. SHEEHAN: Hí.
22	MODERATOR SIGALOS: Megan Sheehan and I
23	am from Philadelphia. And I am here to ask you to
24	stop any further media consolidation and to make the
25	radio airwaves accessible to all.

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As you may know, the city that I live in

is a city divided into neighborhoods that are

thriving and neighborhoods with boarded up

buildings, high crime rates, and little to now

resources. All across the city, however, there are

6 groups making media that reflects the needs of the

7 communities and the realities of people living in

neighborhoods that have been forgotten or neglected

by corporate media.

people's voices.

One example is the Open Borders Project or Projecto Sin Fronteras, an organization that combines computer skills, leadership development and youth radio production in the Latino community of North Philadelphia. I came to know Projecto through providing resources on media literacy for their youth radio program and I was blown away by the content being created and the power of these young

The students at Projecto make dynamic radio documentaries about their lives growing up in North Philly and what it's like to deal with poverty, a broken school system and corporate media that portrays them in negative stereotypes. If broadcasted, these pieces could foster civic engagement. They could start a conversation across

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1 many different neighborhoods about the challenges 2 facing North Philly. They could promote long-term 3 quality investments in the future of their 4 communities. 5 The major problem is that the Clear 6 Channel dominated Philadelphia, there is no access 7 to the airwaves for the voices of these Latino 8 Imagine how different Philadelphia could be, 9 if every neighborhood could have access to the 10 airwaves through their own LPFM. 11 I believe that if consolidation is 12 allowed to expand, we're not only continuing to erode locally owned media, we're also taking away an 13 14 essential tool for urban communities to engage in a 15 revitalization on their own terms. Groups such as 16 Projecto are forced out of the conversation, when 17 our public airwaves are treated like nothing more 18 than a dollar sign. 19 I urge you to stop any further 20 consolidation and to ensure access to the airwaves 21 for all through expanding LPFM and urban communities 22 across the country. 23 Thank you. 24 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Can we 25 please have number 74, Bryan Welton, April Glasier,

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1 Christine Guss, Chris Reese, and Fred Priebe. Bryan 2 Welton, April Glasier, Christine Guss, Chris Reese, 3 and Fred Priebe. Steve Bozzone. 4 5 MR. BOZZONE: My name is Steve Bozzone 6 and I work as a Digital Arts Instructor at Project 7 Homes After School Teen Program in North 8 Philadelphia. Every day after school, teenagers 9 from across who are often maligned and under-10 represented in our major media outlets come to 11 create their own media, to tell their own stories. 12 They create their own Podcasts, videos, music, 13 animations, as well as run their own community 14 newspaper called The North Philly Metropolis. 15 These young people, who often face 16 tremendous hardships every day, who might be labeled 17 at risk, know a side of this country many Americans 18 are out of touch with. This comes as no surprise to me in America, where most people turn to information 19 20 outlets owned by a handful of corporations for their day-to-day education. Balanced news and information 21 22 are essential to a healthy participatory democracy. 23 I'm not talking about a slogan or a 24 token phrase here. The people of Philadelphia,

Harrisburg, and all of Pennsylvania require more

1 locally owned independent newspapers like The North 2 Philly Metropolis to help build proactive 3 communities, encourage healthy dialogue, and inform 4 people of their rights as Americans. My students 5 aren't just at risk of falling into drugs, gangs, 6 and violence, as sadly many of their peers have, 7 they're at risk of not knowing what is really 8 happening in the world. They're at risk of not 9 being heard. 10 They have created a powerful force of 11 independent media makers but they remain drowned out 12 by corporate media giants, like we've heard from 13 These teens know a lot about the risk, but 14 I'm not so worried about the risk they take. more concerned about in America that it's at risk of 15 16 losing its connection with the youth of today. Please give them more opportunities to 17 18 share their stories. They have a lot to say and we 19 should be listening to them. These young people 20 will soon control this country. Please don't shut 21 them out by allowing further consolidation of media 22 outlets. 23 And I'll take this last 20 seconds to 24 talk about how the weather, while it's important and 25 it's an issue that faces all of us, there are way

1 more important issues than whether the highway is 2 closed. So anybody who is patting themselves on the 3 back because they told that it was snowing out is 4 out of their minds. 5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Gary 6 Bootay. 7 MR. BOOTAY: Hi. My name is Gary Bootay 8 and I am the Corresponding Secretary for the 9 Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the 10 Deaf. I'm here today to speak about and speak for 11 the many deaf and hard of hearing people in Central 12 Pennsylvania. We are very upset, very angry with 13 the lack of no closed captioning on our local TV 14 news, especially for emergencies. When there is an 15 emergency, we don't know what's going on. We've had 16 tornados, we've had fires, accidents, many different 17 issues that have been coming up in an emergency situation. The Amish situation, the Amish shootings 18 19 in Lancaster, that broke through our programming as 20 an emergency, but we didn't understand because there 21 was no captioning on the TV. Especially when 22 there's an emergency and there's live television 23 break-in, there's no closed captioning. 24 Usually, you can see the person

speaking, but imagine if there's a problem with the

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connection and you can't hear what they're saying, 2 that's exactly what we're experiencing. And it 3 benefits even hearing people, when there is a loss of connection if the closed captioning is there, 5 hearing people can also read what's going on in the 6 emergency.

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There were several times this past year when the screen was interrupted, my screen of the program that I was watching and it said emergency. And there was, it just said emergency, we didn't know what was going on and I was blocked from going to another channel to find. And I just feel that's There are -- three months ago, I wrote letters to our four local television stations. I asked them to please follow the FCC rules regarding closed captioning during an emergency situation. As of today, I have received one positive response from WGAL. I compliment them that they were willing to provide real time captioning last week during the snow emergencies. They had a full day of captioning. That's the only one. other three local news stations did not your rule -they did not follow the FCC rules.

So all I'm asking you is to please make the local stations give us equal access. That's all

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1 I'm asking for. Thank you for your time. 2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Αl 3 Price. 4 MR. PRICE: Many years ago, as part of 5 my MBA program at Drexel University, I had very 6 interesting and thought provoking course which was 7 required for all MBA students. The title of this 8 course was the system and the unsystem. The basic 9 conclusion of the course was the system must listen 10 to the so-called unsystem for its ability to flourish and survive in the long run. 11 Statistically, the closest we can come to truth is 12 13 the inclusion of 100 percent of the population. 14 That in itself, is one of the most power arguments 15 for democracy. However, without a diverse and open access to the microphone, which the media 16 17 represents, democracy cannot function. Today, in my opinion, concentration of 18 the media and the loss of the fairness doctrine has 19 20 had a deleterious effect on this country. How else 21 can you explain that for a long time after our 22 disastrous invasion of Iraq, over 50 percent of the country, according to polls, still believe Saddam 23 24 Hussein was behind 9/11 and that he possessed 25 weapons of mass destruction. How can it be

explained? Can you explain the proliferation of 1 2 right wing talk shows and the lack of countervailing voices on the left, despite the well established 3 4 red/blue line that is purported by the media to be 5 half of the country? 6 The system is perceived to be broken and 7 lacking transparency. The question should be whether or not the media should be allowed to become 8 9 concentrated, but how do we make it more open and 10 diverse? Hundreds channels do not represent 11 diversity when they're owned by just a few players. 12 I believe the republic understands this 13 more today, as well as that there are no weapons of 14 mass destruction in Iraq. The airwaves are owned by 15 public as much as the air we breathe. In either 16 case, without access to both the air and the air we 17 breathe, and the airwaves, democracy dies. 18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. 19 Geddes. MS. GEDDES: Hi. Good afternoon and 20 21 thank you for listening to our comments today and 22 sharing yours. We've heard testimony from folks concerned about big issues. I'd like to tell a 23 24 story about local radio station that was close to my 25 heart.

In January of this year, residents of Philadelphia suffered the loss of WHAT 1340, the voice of the African American Community. station was a victim of a format change in the hands of its corporate owners. Now we hear an automated play list of songs heard hundreds of times a day on other formatted radio stations. What we lost is a real connection to our community.

In Philadelphia, a city with some 400 murders last year, WHAT was the only station that provided a forum for members of the community affected by the violence to come together and work

In a city with a large Muslim population, WHAT was the only station with a program like Islam Today that dealt with issues facing local Muslim Americans in a post-9/11 world.

I am neither Muslim nor African American, but as a listener of WHAT, I was granted access to the issues and wisdom of these communities. Through this access, I heard minority voices express ideas and perceptions that I was not able to verbalize. My life and the community is richer for it. I will miss the information but will also miss the personalities, Thera Martin Connelly,

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1 Al Butler, Mary Mason and Hayden Superville. 2 In my work as a volunteer at Prometheus 3 Radio Project, I have seen the power of community 4 radio to affect real change in the lives of people 5 who live nearby. WHAT was a glimpse of that power. 6 I urge the commission to listen to the 7 people, to stop the orgy of media consolidation, to 8 stop dragging your heels and expanding the lower 9 power radio service to city and provide LPFM to cities like Philadelphia. 10 11 Thank you. 12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Anthony 13 Mazza. 14 MR. MAZZA: Thank you. Commissioner 15 Martin opened testimony today by stating that public input is critical to the decisions at hand at the 16 17 FCC. 18 In 2003, I traveled with a small but 19 vocal group of Philadelphia residents to Richmond, 20 Virginia for the only official FCC hearing during 21 the first round media ownership hearings. 22 then, I testified to the dismal state of community 23 controlled media in Philadelphia, one of the largest cities with no community radio, no public access TV 24 25 and only two daily newspapers that up until

recently, were owned by the same corporation. Sad
to say, four years later, little has changed in our
media landscape.

Other aspects of city life are changing dramatically. There's a fight right now whether to allow casinos to be built in the city. From the start, legislation that would allow this has been railroaded at the state level and foisted on the unwilling local community. It was recently revealed that one of the new owners of the Daily News, one of the daily newspapers, is also a corporate stakeholder in a proposed Trump Casino. It's no surprise that the paper's coverage of this issue has framed it as a done deal, far from the truth. Imagine if the same owner was also allowed to buy up radio and television stations here. The message is clear. We cannot trust big media to tell our stories. It is only in forums like this where corporate representatives are invited to give testimony in the roles of the citizens that his debate even exists. Outside those on the big media payroll, there is consensus. Access to corporate media is no longer the issue.

We need more community owned and controlled infrastructure now. Low power FM is a

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1 good first step, but it's not enough. Set asides 2 brought about by more efficient uses of technology 3 that give away the candy store to incumbent 4 broadcasters, leaving only crumbs for community 5 interest are not enough. The lack of local voices 6 and people of color has reached crisis proportions 7 and people in communities like Philadelphia are 8 living with the after effects. 9 I urge you to consider the testimony, 10 our testimony, in your reconsideration of these 11 rules and suggest real solutions that address these 12 issues. 13 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Can we 14 please number 80, Etta Albright, Karen Giles Jon 15 Paul Hammond, Terry Malley, and Phyllis Gilbert come 16 to this microphone? Etta Albright, Karen Giles Jon 17 Paul Hammond, Terry Malley, and Phyllis Gilbert. 18 Bryan Welton. 19 MR. WELTON: I'm going to be very brief 20 but I wanted to start by congratulating all the 21 local nonprofit community groups that were here 22 today. And I think they're doing an excellent job with such few resources. But I want to speak as to 23 what I at Media Tank am doing in Philadelphia. 24

My name is Bryan Welton and as the

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Assistant Associate Director at Media Tank, a

Philadelphia-based grass roots organization

committed to engaging and mobilizing the public on

media issues with the aim of creating a just media

system in our community and globally.

I'm concerned about media consolidation

I'm concerned about media consolidation due to a visible decline in the quality, integrity, and diversity of national and local programming, as the power of media and broadcasting is concentrated into fewer hands.

With elections in our city approaching, it seems that the youth, elderly, people of color, and the working class in our community are treated more as an audience of spectators and consumers than constituents and participants in the political process, or possible agents of change on a daily basis. With an overwhelming amount of news dedicated to sensationalized stories of violence and corruption in our city, the media has the power and the responsibility to inform the people in our community about ways that they can become directly involved in changing these issues and more.

The giant media and telecommunications corporations that operate in our city continue to demonstrate that they have little to no incentive to

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address the needs of the public, but on the 1 2 contrary, locate their interests in their profit 3 margin and creating docile consumers. 4 It is the position of my organization 5 and our peers that if the FCC is to open the 6 public's airwaves, a means of communication to 7 further consolidation, it's not only irresponsible 8 and harmful to the public interests, but also 9 offensive and beyond reproach. 10 As in the past, if the FCC refuses their 11 obligation to protect the public trust by opening 12 the market further to predatorial corporations, --13 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. 14 MR. WELTON: -- we'll hold you 15 accountable and compel you to do so as we take the 16 issue from the Whitaker Center here today to the 17 courts and to the streets. 18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. April 19 Glasier. 20 Thank you, Commissioners, MS. GLASIER: 21 for coming to Harrisburg today. It's so essential 22 that you all come out to really hear the public 23 interest. I wish more consumers of media, not just 24 the producers of the media, could be here today to 25 share how they feel the broadcaster actually serve

the citizenry of Pennsylvania.

actually watch the 6:00 news after work couldn't come and share their experiences with you all. Had this hearing not taken place on a work day during business hours, then perhaps those that are not only in the business of media, would be able to attend today. And if this valuable space provided for public opinion was scheduled at a time when the majority of Pennsylvania residents who have something to say on this issue of media ownership could attend, then perhaps the Commission would actually be informed of the public interest.

Of course, getting a true grasp of the public interest is quite difficult when the public has almost no advance notice of the location or date of this hearing.

I just moved to Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania from Nashville, Tennessee, where

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate is from. I'm

starting college next fall and just moved into my

first Philadelphia apartment with an internet -- and

I just found out also that internet costs \$50 a

month. As a student, that cost is too high and I

rely on my public airwaves and The Philadelphia

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